GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:246
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2003
TOLL TAX
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that travellers are indirectly being burdened with the development as well as maintenance of roads as they have to pay heavy toll tax on various highways and expressways;

(b) if so, whether the Government have received a number of proposals from various organisations urging to minimize the collection of toll tax; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to devise a method to collect reasonable toll tax on various highways?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND PO ALLEVIATION (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 246 FOR ANSWE 6.08.2003 ASKED BY SHRI P.S. GADHAVI REGARDING TOLL TAX.

(a) User fee is being levied under the provisions of National Highway Act, 1956 as amended by Parliament in 1992.Government has approved the ceiling rates for various categories of vehicles in July, 1997. These rates have been fixed after giving due consideration to the savings accrued to users on vehicle operating cost, damage caused to the road and willingness to pay. On the improved facilities, user fee charged is much less than the savings accruing to the user.

(b) & (c) Representations have been received from individuals/organizations for reducing toll fee, giving rebate/concession or for replacement of levy of fee by additional cess on petrol and diesel. A committee has been constituted by the Government to examine the methodology of working out quantum of toll charges.